

REMARKS

This paper responds to the final Office Action mailed on March 12, 2004.

Claims 1 and 50 are amended, claim 4 is canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-2, 5-12, 19-27, 29-32, 34-38, 40-44 and 46-50 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forbes (U.S. 6,141,248) in view of Gardner (U.S. 6,169,306). Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 1 is rewritten to include the subject matter of claim 4, which was indicated as allowable. Accordingly, claim 1 and claim 2 depending therefrom are now believed to be allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-6 and 50 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of claim 4 was rewritten into claim 1. Claim 4 was canceled without prejudice. Claim 50 was rewritten into independent form.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 7-12, 19-27, 29-32, 34-38, 40-44 and 46-49.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6960 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

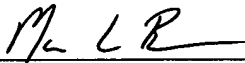
Respectfully submitted,

LEONARD FORBES

By his Representatives,

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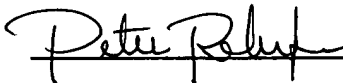
Date 5-12-04

By 
Marvin L. Beekman
Reg. No. 38,377

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 12th day of May, 2004.

Peter Rebuffoni

Name



Signature